

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Applicant has substituted the serial numbers of the related patent applications with the attorney docket numbers.

Claims 1-11, 17-20, 22 and 24 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Alden, U.S. Patent Application publication 2003/0072469.

The Examiner stated the following in page 2 of the office action: *"As per claim 1, Alden discloses a mail monitoring system, said system comprises: a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail (paragraph 7, Fig's. [sic] 3-9); a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle (paragraph 7, Fig's. [sic] 3-9);"*

Paragraph 7 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0007] **FIG. 2** prior art is a flowchart describing the typical office hardcopy mail stream in the US."

Paragraph 16 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0016] **FIG. 2** prior art is a flowchart describing the typical office hardcopy mail stream in the US. Similarly to **FIG. 1**, a vast number of potential mail senders exist in the modern worldwide postal system. Some mail sender's [sic] are known to the mail recipient many other's [sic] are unknown. Under the present system, the mail receiver has no control whatsoever as to which mail he will receive or not receive. Thus a mail recipient **39** must be prepared to deal with mail from anyone including terrorists which may arrive any day at his office mail box **38** courtesy of his office mail distribution system **37**."

Alden does not disclose a postal indicia. In fact, in Fig. 9, Alden shows what appears to be a cancelled 34 cents U.S. postage stamp in the upper right hand side of the image of envelope 175. Thus, Alden does not disclose or anticipate a

plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

Furthermore, Alden does not disclose or anticipate added claim 25 wherein the unique information contained in the postal indicia includes a security code, and added claim 26 wherein the security code is obtained from a recipient address field on the mail and information contained in a postage meter that produced the postal indicia.

Claims 12-16 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Bobrow, et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0079371).

The Examiner stated in page 5 of the Office Action the following: "*Bobrow et al. discloses wherein the mailer's unit includes the **time** and **date** that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail in the unique information contained in the postal indicia (paragraph 113, fig's. [sic] 2 and 4).*"

Paragraph 133 of Bobrow, et al reads as follows:

"[0133] Swipes **1114**, **1116**, and **1118** specify the date and time of the event. Swipes **1110**, **1112**, **1122**, and **1124** serve to annotate the event. The address is set forth in swipes **1120**, **1122**, and **1124** – this information can remain part of the annotation or can be extracted by the system as described below. Note that this further information can be displayed in a hierarchical fashion, concealing details until needed. Moreover, in one embodiment of the invention, the entire announcement of **FIG. 11** (or at least an additional portion thereof) is scanned and stored as an image in the database **310 (FIG. 3)** in addition to the information extracted and used as an event annotation as set forth above. This approach has the advantage that additional information in the document (such as the bride's name, for example) is accessible and can be made available, if necessary, even if it is not expected to be needed at the time the key data items are extracted."

Neither Alden nor Bobrow disclose or anticipate a postal indicia. Figs. 2 and 4 of Bobrow do not show a postal indicial.

Claim 21 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden, and further in view of Rangan, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No.: 2005/0034055).

Paragraph 91 of Rangan, et al reads as follows:

**"[0091]** In an alternative embodiment gatherer 67 may be implemented as a client application installed on a user's PC. In this embodiment, a user would not be required to supply log-in or password codes. Summarization scripts may be sent to the client software and templates may be automatically created with the appropriate scripts using log-in and password information encrypted and stored locally on the user's machine."

Neither Alden nor Rangan, taken separately or together, disclose or anticipate a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

Claim 23 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden in view of Brookner (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,742).

Brookner discloses the following in lines 27-39 of column 2:

"In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a greatly improved system providing early warning preemptive postal equipment replacement. According to the invention, it is provided that selected performance parameters of the postal equipment are monitored and compared against predetermined operational boundaries. The monitoring gives an indication of the overall system performance. If the system performance goes outside of operational boundaries, or changes significantly, replacement can be scheduled with minimal inconvenience to the customer. Data from the old meter can then be orderly transferred to the replacement meter."

Neither Alden nor Brookner, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

Claims 1-24 have been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over copending applications 10/015464, 10/015469. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim 1 has been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over copending applications 09/683,380 and 09/683,381. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

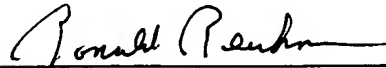
Claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,366. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

In view of the above, claims 1-24 and new claims 25 and 26 are patentable. If

Appln. No.: 10/015,309  
Amdt. Dated April 22, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated February 17, 2005

the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Reichman  
Reg. No. 26,79638,405  
Attorney of Record  
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology Law Department  
35 Waterview Drive  
P.O. Box 3000  
Shelton, CT 06484-8000